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ASSEMBLY OF GAS-FILLED MICROVESICLE WITH ACTIVE COMPONENT FOR CONTRAST IMAGING

Publication number: JP2007515471 (T)

Publication date: 2007-06-14

Inventor(s):

Applicant(s):

Classification:

International: A61K41/00; A61K47/02; A61K47/06; A61K47/12; A61K47/24; A61K47/30; A61K47/34; A61K47/42; A61K47/48; A61K49/00; A61K49/22; A61K51/12; A61K9/127; A61K9/50

European: A61K47/48W8D; A61K49/22PB

Application number: JP20060546390T 20041221

Priority number(s): EP20030079014 20031222; WO2004IB04233 20041221

Also published as:

WO2005063306 (A1)
US2007081946 (A1)
NO20063420 (A)
EP1696965 (A1)
CN1897978 (A)

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Abstract not available for JP 2007515471 (T)

Abstract of corresponding document: **WO 2005063306 (A1)**

Assembly comprising a gas-filled microvesicle and a structural entity which is capable to associate through an electrostatic interaction to the outer surface of said microvesicle (microvesicle associated component - MAC), thereby modifying the physico-chemical properties thereof. Said MAC comprises a targeting ligand and a diagnostic agent or any combination thereof. Optionally a bioactive agent can further be associated to the MAC. The assembly of the invention can be formed from gas-filled microbubbles or microballoons and a MAC having preferably nanometric dimensions, e.g. a micelle, and is used as an active component in diagnostically and/or therapeutically active formulations, in particular for enhancing the imaging in the field of ultrasound contrast imaging, including targeted ultrasound imaging, ultrasound-mediated drug delivery and other imaging techniques such as molecular resonance imaging (MRI) or nuclear imaging.



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